

POST OFFICE ARCHIVE RECORDS RELATING TO PERFINS

Continuing DAVE HILL'S summary of these files. (Bulletin 262)

FILE SEVEN

A year later a surveyor reports the Post Master of Grantham for perforating stamps for Hornsby & Sons. An impression of a 12 over die R.H/&S accompanies the report. Strangely this is an unknown R2520 although the report reads as though stamps were perforated. A Post Master is a direct employee of the Post Office and it was pointed out that this would jeopardise his pension. The Post Master even offered to donate the income to the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund or give the work to a junior. He pointed out that rural messengers were entitled to pensions but take work like mending boots and shoes for profit and he had paid £8.19.6d for the machine. However, he was advised to give it up.

When enquiries were made later he had given the machine to a local stationer, Mr. Palmer, to see whether he could make it pay but it seemed likely that he would not succeed and the Post Master's Clerk would take it back without using it.

FILE EIGHT

Reviewed the previous files and adopted the proposal to pay in advance for stamps for perforating but decided against the prohibition of perforating by Sub-Postmasters.

FILE NINE

The final file takes us to 1938 when it was found that part of the Sub-Postmasters' stock of stamps at Marchmont St., WC1, were perforated ED/CL for the Express Dairy Ltd. Apparently Express Dairy had wanted their stamps perforated and had made enquiries of Slopers. The Sub-Postmaster had not wished to lose their trade so had arranged to swap unperforated stamps for perforated.

It was pointed out that this contravened the Post Office Guide and the arrangement ceased. It is interesting to note that Slopers were referred to as "Sloper (Allchins)", having just taken over the latter.

So ends the file on Sub-Postmaster perforators but it seems certain that other references to perfins remain to be found in the Post Office Archives.